



Lambda Letters Project

32611

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www.lambdaletters.org

LambdaLP@aol.com

(916) 965-6851

Failure in the Senate

Why Did AB 222 Fail?

AB 222 was the Dignity For All Students Act introduced by Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl (D-Encino). The bill would have banned sexual orientation-based discrimination in public schools and forced schools to crack down on gay bashing. The bill also would have banned instructional materials that reflect badly upon people because of their sexual orientation.

The opponents of the bill went ballistic! They bought expensive radio and newspaper ads that vigorously opposed AB 222. They put intense pressure on legislators through letter writing and phone calling campaigns and emotional visits to legislators' district and Sacramento offices. As a result, the bill failed by one vote on the Assembly floor. Yet seven other bills of interest to the queer community made it through the first house of the State Legislature with relatively little fuss. (See the Legislative Update later in this newsletter.)

So what was the difference? AB 222 was the only bill dealing with children; and, sadly, many straight people still believe that gay sex is dirty and evil and that homosexuals are child molesters.

Continued on page 11

A Lesson in Political Activism

The Loss on AB 901

AB 901 is another LGBT bill that didn't make it out of its house of origin by the June 4th deadline. (See the discussion of legislative deadlines in the Legislative Update article in this newsletter.) This bill actually never lost a vote and it is still in the suspense file of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. However, it cannot be considered again by the committee until next January. The fate of this bill is an object lesson that the LGBT community should consider.

AB 901, introduced by Assemblymember Knox (D-Los Angeles), was a tax bill. Current law says that if an employer pays for health benefits for the domestic partners of his or her employees, the employees must pay state income tax on the premiums for that insurance. AB 901 would have eliminated that state tax.

There was relatively little opposition to the bill. However, it would have reduced state tax revenues. The Assembly Appropriations Committee had to consider the cost of all the bills before it. There is never enough money for all bills and some cannot be approved. The committee had approved several of Senator Knox' bills, and fairness to other legislators

Continued on page 12

Also in This Issue:

Women's Issue	3
HIV/AIDS Issue	3
Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issue	4
People of Color Issue	4
July Legislative Update	5-10
How the "Democratic Eight" Voted	12
Update on "Letters to the Editor" Project	13

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

May, 1999	45,378 letters & e-mails
In all of 1999	86, 139 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

May, 1999	\$1,140
In all of 1999	\$9,006

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

Board of Directors

Chair: Jan Hansen, San Diego, (619) 275-5343, firepig@access1.net
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Larry Beaty, Carmichael, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com
Ray Leber, Sacramento, (916) 925-5368
Morris Lyons, San Leandro, (510) 895-6437, mlyons1@earthlink.net
Tom Swann, Rancho Mirage, (760) 324-5670, taswann@aol.com

Staff

Administrator: Boyce Hinman, (916) 965-6851, lambdalp@aol.com
Newsletter Editor: Stefan Grünwedel, (650) 655-3154, s-t-e-f-a-n@rocketmail.com
Legislative Analyst, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues: *Vacant*
Legislative Analyst, HIV/AIDS Status Issues: Carolyn Race,
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, (323) 860-7361, gaylesbla@aol.com
Legislative Analyst, People of Color Issues: Marty Martinez, (415) 255-9191,
mmar10e2@aol.com
Legislative Analysts, Women's Issues: Adrienne Lauby and Martha Courtot,
writwom@aol.com
Database Manager: Charles Penn, (916) 663-4951, cpenn@foothill.net
Webmaster: Lynn Dobbs, San Diego (619) 275-5343,
webmaster@lambdaletters.org
E-mail Alert Advocate, Federal AIDS Issues: Joe Heller, (520) 762-9787,
jrheller@dakotacom.net

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The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

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Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3½" x 2") \$10 per issue,
quarter-page ads \$20 per issue, half-page ads \$30 per issue,
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along with your name and phone number, is the 25th of each month.

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(Appreciated but not required.)

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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor

Standards Enforcement district offices.

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Fresno (209-248-8400)	Long Beach (310-590-5044)
Los Angeles (213-897-4037)	Marysville (916-741-4061)
Oakland* (415-557-7878)	Redding* (415-557-7878)
Sacramento (916-323-4920)	Salinas* (415-557-7878)
San Bernardino (909-383-4333)	San Diego (619-637-5500)
San Francisco* (415-557-7878)	San Jose* (415-557-7878)
Santa Ana (714-558-4111)	Santa Barbara (805-963-1438)
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Breast Cancer Treatment for Poor Women

by Adrienne Lauby and Martha Courtot

California currently has a program that pays the cost of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment for poor women. In January, however, a grant which provides the post-diagnostic treatment portion of this program will run out of funds. Unless this money is replaced, more women living in poverty will die unnecessarily.

Early treatment of breast cancer is particularly crucial for survival. Untreated, it leads to death. Yet without financial help, many poor women delay treatment or find no treatment available to them.

As most of us know by now, breast cancer is a disease which often strikes relatively young women. Many women living with this cancer are also raising children, caring for aging parents, and shouldering jobs in their community. In these circumstances, even well-to-do women find it difficult to put their own needs first. Poor women face a financial drain likely to affect their ability to provide food, housing, and other basic needs for themselves and those for whom they are responsible.

Women's fear of being denied insurance for a pre-existing condition often prevents them from seeking medical care, even at the early diagnostic stage. There is a bill to solve some of these problems. AB 40 passed the Assembly with a 74-to-4 margin and seems to have the momentum to make it to the Senate floor.

If passed, it will establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program to provide breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and under-insured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. It requires the State Department of Health Services to administer the program after the legislature has appropriated the funds.

All people should have access to the tests, treatments, and drugs which are standard in the care of their disease. Obviously, that is not the situation today but, until it is, Lambda Letters will continue to support legislation like AB 40 to meet some of the immediate needs of poor people and their loved ones.

Support Clean Needle Exchange

byCarolynn Race

This year in California, we have the opportunity to pass a bill that would implement a non-names based HIV reporting system. On May 12th, thanks to Lambda Letters Project volunteers and many others, SB 1029, the names-based HIV reporting bill introduced by Senator Ray Haynes (R-Riverside), was defeated in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This defeat brought the HIV community one step closer to stopping names reporting in California—and to passing AB 103, the non-names based HIV reporting bill introduced by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), which would implement a non-names based HIV reporting system for California.

HIV/AIDS supporters are working to educate the Legislature about HIV surveillance—arguing that names-based HIV reporting should be rejected, as studies demonstrate that name reporting would deter individuals from seeking HIV testing and treatment.

After SB 1029 was defeated, Senator Haynes requested "reconsideration" (asking that the bill be taken up for a vote again in the future). The request for reconsideration was granted (it almost always is). Because of this, SB 1029 will become a two-year bill and is still technically alive until early 2000, when it may be voted on again.

Because of SB 1029's status, the HIV community must now intensify its efforts to pass AB 103. If AB 103 is enacted, it is far less likely that SB 1029, or similar name reporting bills, would re-emerge or gain support in the Legislature next year. At press time, AB 103 should be on its way to Governor Davis's desk. Write the governor in support of AB 103.



Rick Otto
Sales Counselor

4932 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95819

Res: 916 452-8137
Fax: 916 452-8633
Pager: 916 820-9003

Help End Discrimination

by Boyce Hinman

This is one of the most important bills this year and the one for which many of us have waited for years. This year it finally seems possible that it will pass and be signed by the governor. So we need to get an absolute flood of letters going to the State Senate to make sure that the bill does pass and that Governor Davis gets a chance to sign it as he has promised to do.

The bill is AB 1001, introduced by Assemblymember Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles). This bill would add sexual orientation to California's Fair Employment and Housing Act. It would thus prohibit sexual orientation-based discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The bill has passed the Assembly and in late June was assigned to two Senate committees, the Senate Labor and Employment Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Currently, lesbian and gay Californians do have protection from employment discrimination under California's Labor Code. However, that law is enforced by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the Department of Industrial Relations. This agency has no other civil rights duties. Its expertise lies in the area of enforcing laws about safe working conditions, overtime rules, and so on. In addition, the Labor Code prohibits sexual orientation-based employment discrimination, but not discrimination in housing or public accommodations. Furthermore, discrimination complaints made under the Labor Code must be submitted within just 30 days of the date on which the discrimination occurred. The Fair Employment and Housing Act allows a full year in which to submit a complaint.

AB 1001 would move the protections against sexual orientation-based discrimination to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, an agency whose major field of expertise is in combating discrimination. AB 1001 is a very important bill and we urge you to support it.

Assemblymember Villaraigosa is relatively certain that AB 1001 will make it through the Senate's committee process and he urges that you write to your Senator urging a yes vote on AB 1001 when the bill reaches the Senate floor. (We will be issuing e-mail alerts on the bill prior to its being heard in the Senate committees.) Please send your letter in support of AB 1001.

Effective Coordination of Programs for Native Americans

by Marty Martinez

The United States has a special duty to provide certain services to Native American tribes, which are independent legal entities. This duty to the tribes is both ethical and legal under existing treaties, statutes, and court decisions. However, the services provided are scattered throughout several Federal agencies and departments. The activities of these agencies are often not coordinated, and many natives are ignorant of the services available to them.

S 612, the Indian Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation Act of 1999, introduced into the United States Senate by Senators Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) and Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) would address this problem. The bill requires all Federal agencies that administer programs or services geared toward Native Americans (including the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Labor, Justice, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, among others) to compile and publish information on these programs and assess their effectiveness. The bill then requires an assessment of the needs of Native Americans and the development of a strategic plan to coordinate the services and programs of all Federal agencies to meet those needs. Such an assessment would occur every five years.

The bill also calls for an aggressive effort to publicize programs and services better to Native Americans, so that tribes and individuals are alerted to their eligibility.

The bill is currently before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. Senator Campbell is chair of the committee, so the bill is likely to be reported out to the full floor. It is not clear that the measure will come up for a vote before the full Senate, however. It is essential, therefore, that each member of the Senate be written and urged to support the bill, and to urge the Senate leadership to bring the bill up for a vote.

July Legislative Update: The Home Stretch

Now we are well into the second half of the 1999 session of the California State Legislature. The first half ended on June 4th. Any bills that were not approved by their house of origin (sent to the second house) by that date are dead for this year. In other words, any bills that begin with "AB" had to be sent to the Senate by that date and any bills that begin with "SB" had to be sent to the Assembly by the deadline.

There are a few upcoming deadlines that are also important. As a bill is considered in its second house, it is sent first to a policy committee. This committee considers whether the bill makes sense from a policy standpoint. If the bill is approved by the policy committee but it's decided that it might cost money for state or local governments, the bill next goes to the Appropriations Committee. This committee considers whether the necessary money is available, and whether it makes economic sense to spend it in the way proposed by the bill. Of course, the decisions in both committees are affected by politics and pressure from lobbyists and the public. If a bill passes both committees, it is sent to the floor of the second house for a final vote in that house.

All bills have to be approved by the policy committee in the second house by July 16th. They must be approved by the Appropriations Committee no later than August 27th. September 10th is the deadline for a bill to be passed by both houses of the legislature and sent to the governor. The legislators can approve exceptions to these deadlines. However, generally, any bill not meeting any one of these deadlines is dead for this year.

MELINDA M. WHITEWAY
Attorney and Counselor at Law

Whiteway Law Offices

1966 Tice Valley Boulevard
Suite 241
Walnut Creek, CA 94595
Phone: 925-932-5333
E-mail: MelindaMW@aol.com
<http://firms.findlaw.com/melindamw/>

The following is a list of the bills that Lambda Letters has been working on. Some bills that we were working on in the early part of the year have been dropped from the list because they died in committee.

We also post updated copies of this list on the Lambda Letters Web page. That list is updated at least twice a month. To see the latest status of the bills, point your Web browser to www.lambdaletters.org. Then click on the Legislative Update button.

Here is the status, as of mid-June, of bills being tracked by Lambda Letters.

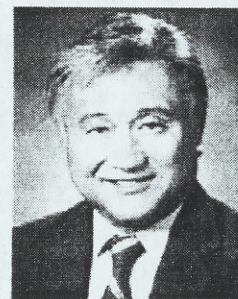
HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 16 (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raise. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.



Mike Honda

AB 103 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to implement a unique identifier system in order to conduct HIV surveillance and improve data collection while maximizing confidentiality protections.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 23rd. Hearing put off until June 30th.

LLP Position: Support



Carole Migden

Continued on page 6

July Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

AB 142 (Kevin Shelley, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that every health care service plan provide medical care in accordance with accepted medical practices and provide emergency health care services and to ensure confidentiality of the medical information of an enrollee. Plans must provide access to a wide variety of primary health care providers and specialty health care providers to ensure that the enrollee is able to choose a qualified doctor or other health care provider.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and Sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Insurance Committee for a hearing on July 7th.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 155 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow people with AIDS who return to work—but whose income is below 250 percent of the federal poverty standard—to continue to receive Medi-Cal benefits.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 518 (Kerry Mazzoni, D—San Rafael)

Purpose: To permit local jurisdictions to establish legal clean needle and syringe exchange programs in California to reduce the spread of AIDS and other diseases spread by the shared use of needles.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.



Kerry Mazzoni

AB 217 (Scott Wildman, D—Glendale)

Purpose: Language about requiring Medi-Cal health care providers to add new drugs to their HIV/AIDS drug formularies has been removed from the bill. AB 217 does require Medi-Cal providers to inform their HIV-positive patients of the steps, if any, that have been taken to refer them to physicians with substantial

experience in treating AIDS. It also requires the state to pay Medi-Cal providers enough for caring for HIV-positive patients, in order to enable those providers to attract the services of physicians qualified to treat HIV/AIDS.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Sent to the Senate Insurance Committee for further hearings. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 851 (Fred Keeley, D—Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the AIDS prevention education requirement in grades 7–12 to include instruction in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and to require related instructional materials to be medically accurate and free of race, gender, and ethnic bias.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Assigned to the Senate Education Committee for a hearing on June 30th.

LLP Positions: Support.

AB 1047 (Marco Firebaugh, D—Huntington Park)

Purpose: To require that the state make new AIDS medications, provided under the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), available to patients within 30 days of being notified that the drugs have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of AIDS.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 23rd. Hearing put off by the committee. No new hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.



Marco Firebaugh

Continued on page 7



VICKI PFINGST

9978 FOLSOM BLVD.
SACRAMENTO, CA 95827

(916) 362-1166
(Pgr) 981-5070

July Legislative Update

Continued from page 6

SB 77 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law says a worker's family may apply for a worker's compensation death benefit when he or she dies from a job-related accident or illness. The claim must be submitted within a specified time from the onset of the job-related illness or accident. A longer time is allowed in deaths from asbestosis because of the typically longer time from exposure to asbestos and death from asbestosis. SB 77 says that HIV and AIDS have a similarly long period of development and so should have a similarly long time during which a claim for a worker's compensation death benefit may be claimed.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Insurance Committee for a hearing on June 23rd. Hearing put off until June 30th.

LLP Position: Support.



Kevin Murray

SB 1258 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on June 29th or July 13th.

LLP Position: Support.



Richard Polanco

SJR 1 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: To memorialize the federal government to take steps to ensure that persons abandoned by Medicare HMOs have access to other HMOs or Medigap policies and to rescind the determination that disabled persons under 65 years of age enrolled in HMOs do not have the same rights as other Medicare enrollees. Also to memorialize the president to issue an executive order directing his administration to work closely and coordinate with California and other states to guide and assist Medicare enrollees who are abandoned by their HMOs to obtain new Medicare coverage.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Approved by the Assembly Health Committee and sent to the Assembly floor. The vote there may occur on June 21st.

LLP Position: Support.



Jackie Speier

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issues

AB 26 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 107 (Wally Knox, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To authorize the state and local governments to provide health care benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 208 (Wally Knox, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide that the penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is imprisonment in state prison for life without the possibility of parole if the victim was intentionally killed because of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—or because of the defendant's perception

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Continued on page 8

July Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—and this allegation has been charged and found to be true.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee, but no hearing date has been set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 222 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica)

Purpose: Called the Dignity For All Students Act. Would amend the California Education Code to add "sexual orientation" to those sections that now protect students from other forms of discrimination. It would specifically bar sexual orientation discrimination in public education, including student programs and activities, athletics, curricula, employment, and financial aid.

Status: Passed all necessary Assembly committees. Failed by one vote on the Assembly floor. May be heard again next January.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1001 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Labor and Employment Committee and also the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing dates set yet.

LLP Position: Support



Antonio
Villaraigosa

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SB 75 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To enact the Domestic Partnership Act of 1999, which would define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Judiciary Committee for a hearing on June 29th.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 118 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require employers to grant family and medical leave to employees who need to care for their domestic partners.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a hearing on June 30th.

LLP Position: Support.

Person of Color Issues

AB 43 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law establishes the Healthy Families Program to arrange for the provision of health services to eligible children whose family's income is less than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. This bill would increase the limit to less than 250 percent of the federal poverty level and would provide that a child who is otherwise eligible for participation shall not be denied eligibility based on the child's date of entry into the United States.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Insurance Committee for a hearing on June 30th or July 7th.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 63 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D-National City)

Purpose: To create an Office of Border Health, which would act to increase cooperation between Mexican and California/US health authorities in tracking disease, monitoring the health of persons along the border region, and would convene a task force of community stakeholders to help develop a strategic plan to



Denise Moreno
Ducheny

Continued on page 9

July Legislative Update

Continued from page 8

address the health concerns in the border region.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 30th.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1463 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law requires that every applicant for a California driver's license must provide proof of citizenship or evidence that he or she is a legal resident alien. This bill would remove that requirement.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee for a hearing on June 29th. **LLP Position:** Support.



Gil Cedillo

SB 44 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To affirm that the laws of California, including the restrictions on affirmative action, do not prevent governmental agencies from engaging in focused outreach and recruitment of minority groups and women if any group is under represented in entry level positions or in an educational institution.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training develop and disseminate training for police officers, including in-

struction on racial and cultural diversity, in order to foster mutual respect and cooperation between law enforcement and members of all racial and cultural groups. This bill additionally would require the commission to develop guidelines that California law enforcement agencies would be required to adopt for the purpose of establishing race neutral criminal profiles.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 78 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Department of Justice to issue an annual report containing the criminal statistics of the preceding calendar year. This bill would require this annual report to contain information about the race, ethnicity, approximate age, and gender of the people stopped in traffic stops.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. No hearing date set yet.

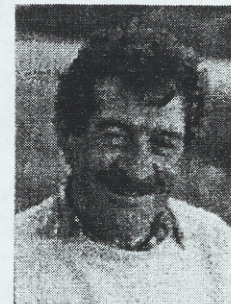
LLP Position: Support.

SB 82 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To provide that any alien who is otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal services, but who does not meet specified requirements relating to residency status (undocumented alien), is eligible for medically necessary pregnancy-related services.

Status: Passed the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet. Probably will be assigned to Assembly Health Committee.

LLP Position: Support



John Vasconcellos

SB 613 (Hilda Solis, D-El Monte)

Purpose: To make permanent the Office of Multicultural Health within the California Department of Health Services.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support

Deborah A. Brooks

Certified Public Accountant



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Continued on page 10

July Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

Women's Issues

AB 39 (Robert Hertzberg, D–Van Nuys)

Purpose: To require individual and group health care service plans to cover the cost of FDA-approved prescription contraceptives.

Status: Passed the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Insurance Committee for a hearing on June 30th.

LLP Position: Support.



Robert Hertzberg

AB 40 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)

Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Also to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee for a hearing on June 30th.

LLP Position: Support.



Howard Wayne

SB 41 (Jackie Speier, D–Daly City)

Purpose: To require disability insurance providers that cover prescription medications to include FDA-approved prescription contraceptives in their list of covered medications.

Status: Passed the Senate and assigned to the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing on July 13th.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 56 (Hilda Solis, D–El Monte)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from punishing employees who take time off to testify in court in domestic abuse cases, as long as employees give reasonable notice to the employer, prior to taking time off, that he or she is required to appear in court to obtain or attempt to



Hilda Solis

obtain any relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of a domestic violence victim or his or her child.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee for a hearing on June 30th or July 14th.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 193 (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale breast cancer license plates to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.

Status: Was passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on July 7th.

LLP Position: Support.



Joe Baca



Failure of AB 222

Continued from page 1

Anything that seems to prevent them from keeping gays away from their kids raises a very red flag.

According to many opinion polls, the LGBT community is making much progress. A recent poll commissioned by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund found that 77 percent of Americans would vote for a gay candidate for Congress or the state legislature if the candidate was right on the issues. Seventy-seven percent of voters also supported banning job discrimination against lesbians and gays. (Apparently the survey questions did not include bisexuals or transgendered folk.)

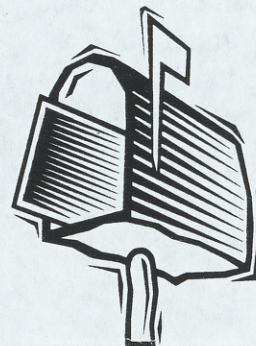
Seventy-five percent of survey respondents believed that crimes motivated by bias-based on sexual orientation should be considered hate crimes. In addition, 55 percent said gays should not be discharged from the military for being honest about their sexual orientation and 56 percent said that gay and lesbian people should have the right to health care benefits for their partners.

But the general public is still not on board on family issues. A 1996 Gallup poll found that 68 percent of Americans opposed same-gender marriage and only 27 percent favored it. In 1998 a telephone survey conducted by Princeton University found that only 33 percent of respondents favored same-gender marriage and only 36 percent of the public felt that gays should be allowed to adopt children. Until we can turn the public around on these family issues we are likely to face continuing stiff opposition to anything relating to same-gender marriage or to gays and children.

On the other hand, AB 222 lost by only one vote in the Assembly. Eight Democrats voted against it (see Table 1). The bill may be brought up again in the Assembly next January. Lambda Letters is looking at the possibility of an effort to turn those eight Democrats around between now and then.

Table 1. Democrats Who Voted Against AB 222

Name	District Office
Dennis Cardoza	Turloc
Lou Correa	Santa Ana
Dean Florez	Bakersfield
Sally Havice	Artesia
Michael Machado	Stockton
Sarah Reyes	Fresno
Nel Soto	Ontario
Carl Washington	Compton



Don't Know Who Represents You?

? Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you. **?**

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor

Standards Enforcement district offices.

Bakersfield (805-395-2710)	Eureka* (415-557-7878)
Fresno (209-248-8400)	Long Beach (310-590-5044)
Los Angeles (213-897-4037)	Marysville (916-741-4061)
Oakland* (415-557-7878)	Redding* (415-557-7878)
Sacramento (916-323-4920)	Salinas* (415-557-7878)
San Bernardino (909-383-4333)	San Diego (619-637-5500)
San Francisco* (415-557-7878)	San Jose* (415-557-7878)
Santa Ana (714-558-4111)	Santa Barbara (805-963-1438)
Santa Rosa (707-576-2363)	Stockton (209-948-7770)
Van Nuys (818-901-5312)	Ventura (805-654-4538)

*These cities share an office.

Other Votes of the "Democratic Eight"

The article "Why Did AB 222 Fail?" earlier in this newsletter describes how the Democratic Eight voted on A.B. 222. We thought you might like to see how they fared on other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender bills that recently made it out of the Assembly. Table II lists the bills and how they voted on them. A "+" indicates that the legislator voted for the bill, a "-" indicates that he or she voted against the bill, and an "A" indicates that the legislator abstained or was absent.

As you will see, each of the legislators, except Assemblymember Correa, abandoned the LGBT community on at least two of the five bills. Assemblymembers Florez and Reyes had the worst records, voting against the community five out of five times. This provides fresh evidence of something that has been said in this newsletter previously: namely, we cannot take the support of the Democrats for granted.

For a description of the bills mentioned in Table II, please turn to the Legislative Update found later in this newsletter.

Table II. Votes of the "Democratic Eight"

Name	AB 26	AB 107	AB 208	AB 222	AB 1001
Dennis Cardoza	-	-	+	-	A
Lou Correa	-	+	+	-	+
Dean Florez	-	-	-	-	-
Sally Havice	-	-	+	-	-
Michael Machado	-	-	+	-	+
Sarah Reyes	-	-	-	-	-
Nel Soto	-	-	+	-	+
Carl Washington	+	-	-	-	-

*Lavender
Valentines*

Phyllis & Gwendelyn
~ 2 years ~

Loss on AB 901

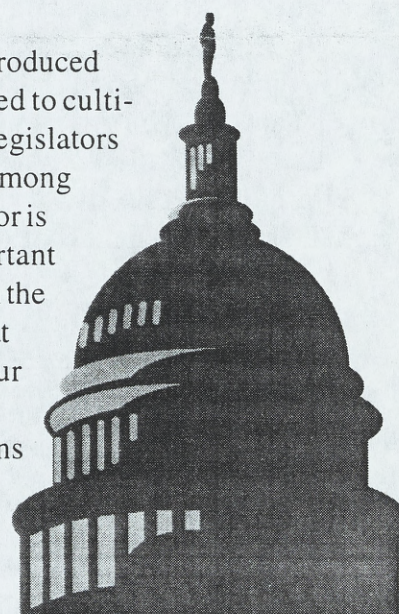
Continued from page 1

required that some of the limited dollars in the budget be saved to fund the bills of other legislators.

On the other hand, two other Knox bills of interest to the LGBT community (AB 107 and AB 208) had been approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Mr. Knox chose not to push for a vote on AB 901. He may have felt that fairness required that, given the limits stated above, he had to save his other bills for other constituent groups in his district.

So what are the lessons to be learned from all this? First, the legislative process limits the number of LGBT bills that can be approved each year. It would be wise for LGBT individuals and groups to coordinate their efforts and reach consensus about the most

important bills to be introduced each year. Also, we need to cultivate a wide number of legislators and spread "our bills" among them so that no legislator is forced to drop an important bill because of limits on the number of their bills that can be approved. As our community matures we should take these lessons to heart.



Update on Our "Letters to the Editor" Project

In April, Lambda Letters launched an experiment. The purpose of the experiment was to see if we could get letters to the editor published in mainstream newspapers across the state. We solicited volunteers for the project and about thirty people did volunteer. We provided them with sample letters to the editor which they signed and sent to their local newspapers.

In June we moved the experiment to our e-mail alert system. The benefits of this were that larger numbers of people could participate (we have about 500 people on our alert list) and participants could easily personalize the electronic copies of the letters that they received. This increased the likelihood that one newspaper might print more than one letter on the subject of our letters to the editor. We also added a page to our Web site on which people could find the e-mail address of many mainstream California newspapers. This enables people to quickly send electronic copies of their letters to the newspaper of their choice.

In June, sixteen different newspapers across the state published our members' letters: *The Sierra Star* (Eastern Madera County), *The West County Times* (Pinole), *The Press Democrat* (Santa Rosa), *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Desert Sun* (Palm Springs), *The Tribune* (San Luis Obispo County) twice, *The Sonoma County Independent*, *The Lodi News Sentinel*, *The Contra Costa Times*, *The Redlands Daily Facts*, *The San Diego Gay and Lesbian Times*, *The North County Times* (San Diego County), *The Union* (Nevada County), *The Times* (Contra Costa County), *The Fresno Bee*, and *The Hayward Daily Review*.

While this may not be a huge a huge number, we feel it is a very promising beginning. People wishing to be added to our e-mail alert list should send a request to LambdaLP@aol.com. Those who want to see the list of newspaper e-mail addresses should go to our Web page at www.lambdaletters.org. Then click on the Links button and then click on the Newspapers button to see a list of California newspapers.



the news resource of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community

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